

Barnard Castle Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1922.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased to report that the health of the district during the year has been most excellent. The Death Rate is low, the Infantile Mortality exceptionally low, and the number of Infectious Diseases notified very small in comparison with preceding years. The entire absence of Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever, and the small number of Scarlet Fever cases notified, considering its prevalence in the County, are noteworthy. Having received from Dr. T. Eustace Hill, the County Medical Officer, a communication relative to the outbreak of Small Pox throughout England and Wales, and of several cases in our own County. I informed my Council of the fact and the desirability of having suitable accommodation in the event of any cases arising in the District. I am pleased to state that my Council thoroughly rose to the occasion, and have made suitable arrangements with the Startforth Rural District Council, to the effect that all Small Pox cases occurring in both districts be treated in their Hospital and other Infectious cases in the Barnard Castle Rural District Hospital; and I, being Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent for both Districts and Hospitals, makes the scheme practicable and obviates the necessity of constructing a new hospital. Shortage of houses is still very keenly felt, there being numbers of unfit dwellings occupied; overcrowding in others, and a want of suitable accommodation for the housing of the poorer classes in Cockfield especially. The only remedy—if building new houses by public or private enterprise cannot be carried out—is for the Council to insist upon improvements and repairs to properties, in order that they can be made habitable. A new Act, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act has come into force during the year, and gives additional powers to the Council for safeguarding the production, distribution and sale of milk. It will prove of great assistance towards ensuring a pure milk supply. The Barnard Castle Urban District's Refuse and Rubbish Tip at Stainton Bank in our district and adjacent to the main road between Staindrop and Barnard Castle, is proving an objectionable sight to passers by; besides paper from it flying across the road, may endanger the lives of persons on horseback and horse-transport. My Council have communicated with them in the matter, and it is to be hoped that steps may be taken to have it closed. Before concluding the preliminary remarks I should like to state that a considerable decline in Birth Rate has occurred.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	73,092
Population, 1922	11,680
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1922	2,760
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1922	2,662
Rateable Value	£80,300
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£260

2.—EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births { Legitimate 199 - 108 - 91				} Birth Rate (R.G.) .....18·75
Deaths { Illegitimate 24 - 12 - 12				
Deaths - - - 148 - 75 - 73				Death Rate (R.G.) .....12·67

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of Child-birth, from Sepsis, Nil; Other Causes, 1.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births ...	58·29
Legitimate: M. 10, F. 1; Illegitimate: M. 1, F. 1; Total ...	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	3
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1

Birth Rate, Death Rate, Infantile Mortality, compared with Rates of England and Wales.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Death Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births.
England & Wales ..	20·6	12·9	77
District ...	18·75	12·67	58·29

Comparison of District, Birth and Death Rates, with preceding years.

	Year 1922.	Year 1921.	Year 1920.	Year 1919.	Year 1918.
Birth Rate	18·75	23·4	24·5	20·05	20·05
Death Rate	12·67	12·33	14·03	16·66	18·91
Infantile Mortality	58·29	92·1	110·0	99·09	97·00

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	20	15	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	12	—	11
Other Diseases, generally notifiable	3	—	—
Other Diseases, notifiable locally	—	—	—
Tuberculosis:			
(a). Pulmonary { M. 5 } { F. 3 }	8	—	11
(b). Non-Pulmonary { M. 2 } { F. 1 }	3	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.				Under Years											65 and over	TOTAL
				1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	55		
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	3	3	6	3	2	1	—	1	20	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	
Pneumonia	—	6	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	1	12	
Other Diseases Notified	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	2	8	
Non-Pulmonary	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	
ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AND DIED.																
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Pneumonia	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	11	
Other Diseases Notified	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Tuberculosis : Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	3	1	—	11	
Non-Pulmonary	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	

DEATHS FROM NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	MALE.		FEMALE.		TOTAL.
Whooping Cough	3	...	0	...	3
Influenza	3	...	2	...	5
Cancer—Malignant Disease	5	...	13	...	18
Diabetes	0	...	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	6	...	5	...	11
Heart Disease	3	...	10	...	13
Arterio Sclerosis	2	...	1	...	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	4	...	0	...	4
Bronchitis	3	...	6	...	9
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	...	0	...	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	...	4	...	6
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parburikia	0	...	1	...	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Births	5	...	1	...	6
Suicide	1	...	0	...	1
Other Deaths from Violence	2	...	3	...	5
Other Defined Diseases	19	...	14	...	33
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	2	...	0	...	2

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATION.—The Notification of Tuberculosis by Practitioners might be more satisfactory. As seen from the above table out of the eleven deaths only eight were reported. I have interviewed the Practitioners who failed to notify, and find that their difficulty arose through cases which came under their care from other Practitioners, and whom they thought had already been notified.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Parishes of Cockfield, Woodland, Middleton and Newbiggin each have a separate water supply, the water being supplied by gravitation from springs. In connection with the supply to Cockfield, hydraulic rams are employed to pump one spring to the service reservoir. Egglestone village is supplied by spring water from public taps connected to water mains. The supply at Hill Top was found to be contaminated in transit from its source through faulty pipes. New pipes were laid and the water is now satisfactory. Gainford, Headlam, Langton, Staindrop, Winston, Newsham and South Cleatlam villages are supplied from the Tees Valley Water Board's main, with the exception of a few houses situated within a reasonable distance of well water. The Tees Valley Waterworks supply is constant. In Ingleton village the water supply, owing to the public wells being condemned, is under investigation. All other villages not named are supplied from wells with pumps attached, and in Upper Teesdale most of the houses are supplied with spring water conveyed in pipes from the hill-sides.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—All rivers and streams are pure and free from pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Middleton, Egglestone, Staindrop, Cockfield, Ingleton, Gainford, Winston, Whorlton and South Cleatlam villages have good efficient systems of sewerage and sewage disposal works.

SCAVENGING.—Scavenging is undertaken at Cockfield and Staindrop by the Council. The work is let to contractors and is fairly satisfactory. In other villages the householders are responsible for the regular removal and disposal of excrement, and as the conditions of the privies and closets are under the periodical supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, they are not allowed to become offensive.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition and water supply of the different schools were fairly satisfactory. Children found suffering from Infectious Disease, being unclean or verminous, are excluded from school, and where Infectious Diseases are widely prevalent the schools in the infected area are recommended for closure. Only one school was closed owing to Whooping Cough in the village of Egglestone.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL AND DISINFECTION.—Fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Hospital. The houses from which these cases were admitted were thoroughly disinfected, and on discharge from Hospital their clothing was treated likewise. There were no return cases admitted.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.—The administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in all workshops and workplaces is satisfactory.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No special causes of Sickness and Invalidity have been specially noteworthy in the District during the year.

5.—SUMMARY (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals & other Institutions available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME : (a). GENERAL ; (b). FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a). *General.*—There are three District Nursing Associations in the district, each having a Nurse partly trained and possessing a Midwifery qualification, and who is available to attend General Diseases and Midwifery to both members of the Associations and non-members at a reasonable charge. These Associations are financed by members' subscriptions and non-members' fees, and a grant from the County Council.

(b). *Infectious.*—None.

MIDWIVES.—Those practising in the district in connection with the above Associations.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—None.

Day Nurseries and School Clinics.—None.

TUBERCULOSIS.—DISPENSARIES available for treatment of Tubercular Cases by the County Council at Darlington.

VENEREAL DISEASES.—Treatment centres available for treatment by the County Council are as follows :—The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne ; the General Hospital, Darlington ; the County Hospital, Durham ; the Stockton and Thornaby Hospital, Stockton. Bacteriological and Pathological examination of material sent by Practitioners for Diagnostic purposes is made at the School of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, free of cost by the County Council.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.—None in the district. SANATORIA and HOSPITALS available for the district by the County Council :

SANATORIA.			HOSPITALS.		
Wolsingham Sanatorium	...	95 beds	...	Gateshead Hospital	
Blackfell	"	38	"	Ingham Infirmary, South Shields	
Marden Low	"	42	"	Durham County Hospital	
Sealburn	"	22	"	Sunderland Royal Infirmary	
Helmington Row	"	14	"	Children's Hospital, Sunderland	
Tindale Crescent	"	12	"	Southwick and Monkwearmouth Hospital	
Hebburn	"	24	"	The Hartlepoons Hospital	
Stannington (for children only)		70	"	{ Darlington, Stockton and Thornaby Hospital	
Sunderland Rural	"	14	"	The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	

(The number of beds in above Hospitals is variable).

2. MATERNITY.—None.

3. CHILDREN.—None.

4. FEVER.—An Isolation Hospital at Marwood, provided and supported entirely by the District Council for the Isolation and Treatment of Infectious Diseases, situated in the centre of the district, about 1½ miles from Barnard Castle, containing 28 beds in four distinct wards. A Nurse-Caretaker is in charge, and the Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Superintendent.

5. SMALL POX.—Arrangements are made with the Startforth Rural District Council for the treatment and isolation of all Small Pox cases occurring in the district at their Infectious Diseases Hospital, Hardings, Romalldkirk. It is situated in an isolated area, and consists of 3 wards, containing 4 beds each. If necessity arose there is ample room for considerable extension.

6. OTHER.—None.

*Any Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Children, and Homeless Children in the district :—*The Workhouse Hospital at Barnard Castle is available for such cases.

Ambulance Facilities :—(a) For Infectious Cases, 1 Ambulance (Horse).

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases, none.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.—Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations, etc. Issue of Diphtheria Antitoxin or other Sera or Vaccine.

Arrangements are made by the Rural District Council for the Bacteriological and Pathological examinations of material sent by Medical Practitioners at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Serums and other Vaccines are issued to Practitioners by the Rural District Council. Venereal Disease Discharges, etc., sent by Practitioners can be examined bacteriologically and pathologically at the Newcastle School of Medicine free of cost to Practitioners by County Council.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, and Local Regulations Relating to the Public Health in Force in the District, with Date of Adoption.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890, Part III.	...	Adopted July 10th, 1905
Building Bye-laws	...	May 10th, 1905
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations	...	Dec. 19th, 1906
Bye-laws with respect to Slaughter-houses	..	Feb. 27th, 1907

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Summary of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1922 and action taken under the Public Health Acts or Bye-laws, etc.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Conditions	1	—	1
	{ Structural Defects	25	3	18
	{ Overcrowding	1	—	1
Dairies and Milkshops	...	—	—	—
Cowsheds	...	6	—	5
Slaughter-houses	...	2	—	2
Ashpits and Privies	...	9	1	5
Deposit of Refuse and Manure	...	33	—	33
Waterclosets	...	8	—	9
Defective Yard Paving	...	5	1	5
House Drainage	...	22	—	22
Water Supply	...	27	—	26
Other Nuisances	...	3	—	3
		142	5	131

II. WATER, FOOD, AND DRUGS.—Samples of Water taken for analysis, 7; condemned, 0.
 III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE. — Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease, 22; Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease, 1.

IV. GENERAL.—Number of Houses erected during the year	...	...	9
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	...	...	9
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	...	6
" " Waterclosets	...	...	2
Ash-closets	...	...	1
Total number of Waterclosets in the district	...	...	508
" " Ash-closets	...	...	1122
" " Ashpit-privies	...	...	1130
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses	...	...	11
Number of Registered Cow-keepers	...	...	59

WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTOR UNDER ARTICLE XIX. OF THE SANITARY OFFICERS ORDER, 1922.

Inspection of places where Food is prepared.—There are only a few small Cafés and one Pork Butcher: all are periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

Number and Condition of Slaughter-houses Registered or Licensed.—There are 11 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the district: all have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation, and the extent of their use.—22 Houses were Disinfected after Infectious Disease, and 1 School Disinfected after closure owing to epidemic of Whooping Cough. At the Infectious Diseases Hospital patients' clothing is disinfected upon discharge.

Actions under Dairies, Cow-Sheds, and Milk-Shop Orders.—There are 59 Registered Cow-keepers: all have been inspected and found satisfactory.

Actions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations (if the Council is a Local Authority under the Acts).—Nil.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health who holds the Diploma in Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a whole-time Sanitary Surveyor, who is also Sanitary Inspector, and who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There are no Special Nurses or Health Visitors employed by the Council, but Lady Health Visitors, who are Qualified Nurses, and are employed by the County Council, visit the district regularly.

9.—HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—(a) Total	...	...	9
(b) As part of municipal housing scheme	...	...	6

I.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

<i>Inspection.</i> —(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	57
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	32
3. Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	nil

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	18
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	nil
2. Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—			
(a) by owners	...	...	nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	nil
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners or intention to close	...	...	nil

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

1. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	25
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—			
(a) by owners	...	...	18
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	nil

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	nil
2. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	...	...	nil
3. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	nil
4. Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	nil
5. Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	nil

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. S. HAWTHORNE,

April, 1923.

Medical Officer of Health.